



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Environmental Center

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL:01414

## HB 574

### RELATING TO PERMIT COORDINATION

#### Senate Committee on Economic Development

Public Hearing, February 2, 1999

9:00 a.m., Room 312, State Capitol

by

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

Karl Kim, Urban and Regional Planning

HB 574 would establish a 5-year permit coordination pilot program for proposed developments in Waikiki.

Our statement on this measure is compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed reviewers and does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Where regulatory controls on development are duplicative, ambiguous, or overzealously implemented, reforms are imperative. An appropriate function of government is to identify specific regulatory inefficiencies and effect appropriate remedies.

Although comprehensive rehabilitation and redesign of Waikiki has been identified by urban planners as a key element of the future of Honolulu, the present proposal to overlay existing permitting mechanisms with a super-bureaucracy appears to increase rather than to ameliorate the plight of developers. Furthermore, the inherent separation of jurisdiction between state and city regulatory responsibilities remains problematic.

In our view, existing professional, private-sector consultants should be able to perform the informational and facilitating services outlined in this measure far more efficiently than can government.